

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 16, 2013

The Honorable Council of the City of Evansville met on regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2013 in the City Council Chambers, Room 301 Civic Center Complex, Evansville, Indiana, with President Connie Robinson presiding. The following business was conducted.

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Audiotapes of this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office.

ROLL CALL:

Present: McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, Adams, O'Daniel, Weaver, Robinson

There being nine (9) members present and zero (0) members absent and nine (9) members representing a quorum, I hereby declare this session of the Common Council officially open.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This evening the pledge of allegiance is led by Councilman O'Daniel.

Fellow Councilmen and those in the audience, welcome to the December 16, 2013 meeting of the Common Council.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

Minisha Wohlford of Memorial High School and Josh Degenhart of Central High School

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

This evening Scott Danks is City Council Attorney.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

This evening Officer Schwambach is our Sergeant at Arms.

READING AND AMENDMENT OF MINUTES

Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2013 meeting of the Common Council as written?

Councilman Friend moved and Councilwoman Mosby seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Common Council held December 9, 2013 as written. Voice vote. So ordered.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

IN YOUR DECEMBER 13th PACKET:

- *City Council Meeting Agenda and Committee Meeting Schedule for December 16, 2013
- *Copy of the Firefighters Contract

EMAILED MATERIAL:

- *City Council Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2013.
- *List of Expired City Council Appointments.
- *Inter-department vacation studies and green card receipts for Ordinance G-2013-21.
- *Approval of Mighty Cab and River City Yellow Cab drug testing policies.
- *A letter of withdrawal for Rezoning Ordinance R-2013-18.

On Your Desk This Evening:

*Extended Agenda for December 16, 2013

*Budget Highlights for 2014

President Robinson: Can I have a motion to receive, file and make these reports and communications a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Councilwoman Mosby moved and Councilman Friend seconded the motion to receive, file and make these reports and communications a part of the minutes of the meeting. Voice vote. So ordered.

CONSENT AGENDA

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE G-2013-18 A.S.D. BRINKERHOFF-RILEY

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville granting certificates of convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs for the year 2014 (Unity Taxi)

ORDINANCE G-2013-21 PUBLIC WORKS (O'DANIEL) LINDSEY

An Ordinance to vacate certain public ways or public places within the city of Evansville, Indiana, commonly known as the right-of-way part of 2nd Ave.

ORDINANCE G-2013-22 A.S.D. BRINKERHOFF-RILEY

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville granting certificates of convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs for the year 2014 (Dave's Taxi)

ORDINANCE G-2013-23 A.S.D. BRINKERHOFF-RILEY

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville granting certificates of convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs for the year 2014 (River City Yellow Cab)

RESOLUTION C-2013-24 FINANCE FRIEND

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming, authorizing and approving an agreement between the City of Evansville and International Association of Firefighters Evansville Local No. 357 Inc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Chairman Friend: Madam President, your Finance Committee met this evening to hear Resolution C-2013-24 it comes forward with a do-pass recommendation.

A.S.D. COMMITTEE:

CHAIRWOMAN BRINKERHOFF- RILEY

Councilwoman Riley: Madam President, your A.S.D. Committee met this evening to hear Ordinances G-2013-18, G-2013-22, G-2013-23 and they all come forward with a do-pass recommendation.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN O'DANIEL

Chairman O'Daniel: Madam President, your Public Works Committee met this evening to hear Ordinance G-2013-21 and it comes forward with a do-pass recommendation.

President Robinson: Is there a motion to adopt the Committee Reports and move these Ordinances and Resolutions to Third Reading.

Councilman Weaver moved and Councilman O'Daniel seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written. Voice vote. So ordered.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE G-2013-18 A.S.D.

BRINKERHOFF-RILEY

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville granting certificates of convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs for the year 2014 (Unity Taxi)

President Robinson: Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-18 and call the roll?

Councilwoman Mosby moved and Councilman Adams seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-18 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, Adams, O'Daniel, Weaver, Robinson

There being nine (9) Ayes and zero (0) Nays, Ordinance G-2013-18 is hereby declared adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE G-2013-21 PUBLIC WORKS (O'DANIEL)

LINDSEY

An Ordinance to vacate certain public ways or public places within the city of Evansville, Indiana, commonly known as the right-of-way part of 2nd Ave.

President Robinson: Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-21 and call the roll?

Councilman Lindsey moved and Councilman Weaver seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-21 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, Adams, O'Daniel, Weaver, Robinson

There being nine (9) Ayes and zero (0) Nays, Ordinance G-2013-21 is hereby declared adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE G-2013-22 A.S.D.

BRINKERHOFF-RILEY

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville granting certificates of convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs for the year 2014 (Dave's Taxi)

President Robinson: Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-22 and call the roll?

Councilman Adams moved and Councilwoman Mosby seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-22 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: M^eGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, Adams, O'Daniel, Weaver, Robinson

There being nine (9) Ayes and zero (0) Nays, Ordinance G-2013-22 is hereby declared adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE G-2013-23 A.S.D.

BRINKERHOFF-RILEY

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville granting certificates of convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs for the year 2014 (River City Yellow Cab)

President Robinson: Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-23 and call the roll?

Councilman Friend moved and Councilwoman Mosby seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance G-2013-23 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: M^eGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, Adams, O'Daniel, Weaver, Robinson

There being nine (9) Ayes and zero (0) Nays, Ordinance G-2013-23 is hereby declared adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2013-24 FINANCE

FRIEND

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming, authorizing and approving an agreement between the City of Evansville and International Association of Firefighters Evansville Local No. 357 Inc.

President Robinson: Is there a motion to adopt Resolution C-2013-24 and call the roll?

Councilman Friend moved and Councilwoman Mosby seconded the motion to adopt Resolution C-2013-24 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: M^eGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, Adams, O'Daniel, Weaver, Robinson

There being nine (9) Ayes and zero (0) Nays, Resolution C-2013-24 is hereby declared adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There will be no meeting on December 23, December 30, 2013. The next meeting of the Common Council will be Monday, January 6, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

President Robinson: I need a motion to accept the withdrawal of Rezoning Ordinance R-2013-18.

Councilman Weaver moved and Councilwoman Mosby seconded the motion to accept the withdrawal of R-2013-18. Voice vote. So ordered.

President Robinson: I need a motion to carryover the following Rezoning Ordinances to the Year 2014:

R-2013-21	R-2013-25
R-2013-22	R-2013-26
R-2013-23	R-2013-27
R-2013-24	R-2013-28
	R-2013-29

Councilman Adams moved and Councilman Lindsey seconded the motion to carryover the aforementioned Rezoning to the Year 2014. Voice vote. So ordered.

Next, we'll have Debbie Dewey with GAGE

GAGE President Dewey: Thank you. For the record, I am Debbie Dewey, President of the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville and I'm here to report on our 2013 activities in line with the service contract that we have with the City of Evansville. I'm going to just report on some highlights so I hope you'll find it of interest but we will be issuing an annual report in January as we usually do and you'll all get a copy of that.

2013 has been a slower year for new project leads and inquiries. We hear from a lot of our local companies that it's still a tough economy and they are still struggling. The national economic growth is at less than 2% and it's predicted to stay at that level through the first half of 2014. Last year we would see about four or five different leads come in for projects every month; this year it's been about one or two per month. We did work on two attraction projects that got all the way to the finish line; they had chosen Evansville and then the company cancelled the projects. So again, we are seeing companies kind of sitting on that cash and not making the investment we'd like to see them make.

But on a positive note, we have seen an increase in requests from local entrepreneurs and we've seen continued expansion with some of our existing businesses. For some examples, we worked a rail infrastructure project with Berry Plastics that retains hundreds of jobs. We had a vacant building declared as an industrial recovery site for Uniseal to retain jobs and to add some new jobs. We aided the start-up of Envolve Engineering that was started by ex-Whirlpool design engineers. We attracted nFLOW. This is a young company moving to Vanderburgh County that is growing in employment from nine to forty. We supported a number of start-ups, including, just to name a few, one that started a resin supply and plastic compound development company, another one for innovative medical supply procurement, and a third for photonic communication development so we are seeing some entrepreneurial activity.

We've handled nearly 200 requests for assistance in 2013. Year-to-date we've closed projects that will add 122 new jobs and retain 653 jobs with nearly 110 million per year in economic impact. We have over twenty open projects and currently eight of those are what we would consider active. One is very hot and we have our fingers crossed so we'll hear about that very soon.

Since redefining our mission three years ago for the Growth Alliance, we have handled 960 requests for assistance and we've closed projects that are adding 1520 new jobs with a positive economic impact of 300 million dollars per year.

This year we also executed an RFP process for a shell building at the Vanderburgh Industrial Park. One of the things we see with some of our project leads is they want buildings that are existing, about 100,000 square feet and 32 foot ceilings and we just don't have an inventory of that so we are hoping with the shell building that we'll be able to compete on some of these projects that we haven't had anything to offer up to this point.

We help pitch practices and workshops that helped 16 entrepreneurs develop communication for potential investors and customers, and the Tech-on-Tap series of meet-ups that started last year has nearly 260 registered members now, and in fact, it's spinning off a series of other meet-ups for innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors. The feedback we got from our entrepreneurial community we need to have more and more of these types of networking events where they can meet with other founders, other entrepreneurs, potential investors, and mentors to kind of figure out, as they always tell us, "We don't know what we don't know", so if they can have these meet-ups, they can find out this information. In fact, last week alone there were four different meet-ups that were spin-offs of the Tech-on-Tap and people were getting together, talking about an emerging tech community in Evansville. They were talking about lessons learned with their start-up and sharing that with other entrepreneurs so it's really starting to take off.

We also sponsored and provided mentor services to the second Startup Weekend Evansville that was held out at USI with 107 attendees. It's the largest one in the State of Indiana so far so we have that distinction.

We are also a member of the Executive Committee of the I-69 Innovation Corridor Initiative. This is over 300 consortium members who are working together to develop a plan to raise the regions innovation index and technology based economic growth and as part of that consortium, we also chair one of the task forces. Five task forces have spun off from that consortium. We chair the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Networks task force and through that, we developed an asset map for our entrepreneurial ecosystem in southwest Indiana. We also developed and maintain an I-69 Ignite facebook page and Twitter account and this is so that the regions entrepreneurs can go to one place and find out about all of the events and the spaces and the resources that are available to them. We just started this towards the end of this year and we already have 100 followers. The entrepreneurs are beginning to use this page to share information with each other so this is exactly what we wanted to happen.

We provided the Kaufman FastTrac® GrowthVenture™ program to 10 more local businesses, bringing to total to 43. This program is a 30-hour program. It's kind of like a mini MBA that helps existing businesses to grow. We also obtained certification this year to provide the NewVenture™ program. This is kind of like GrowthVenture™ but it's for start-ups and we can provide that now. We also applied and received grants the Vectren Foundation and Fifth/Third Bank so we can now offer scholarships for 30 entrepreneurs over the next two years to take them through this 30-hour program to help improve the success rate for their start-up. A certain amount of these scholarships have been set aside for minority and women entrepreneurs as well.

We are converting space at Innovation Pointe right now into co-working space. What we've heard from our entrepreneurs is, "You know I don't necessarily need a private office. I want this co-working space where I can collaborate with other entrepreneurs and it costs me a little bit less", so we studied some successful co-working spaces in other communities and we're going to

start one up at Innovation Pointe in January. We already have 12 people who are anxious to be members so I'm afraid we are going to outgrow the space even before we open it.

We are also an active participant in the Southern Indiana Optics and Photonics Consortium. This is a group of people looking at the possibility of developing a cluster of businesses in southern Indiana for optics and photonics. It's in its very early stages; we don't know where it's going to go but what we are trying to do is to find that technical domain of focus that might give us an opportunity to have kind of a Silicon Valley-like reputation in something so we are starting to look at things that might apply for here.

We were a sponsor of the Latino Summit and we've launched a globalization committee. The first initiative of that committee is to develop a guide that will help us attract and facilitate foreign direct investment in our community.

We serve on the Regional Workforce Investment Board and I chair the Human Resources Committee of that board.

We redesigned our website this year because we found that our website really wasn't conducive to what site-selectors really wanted to see when they were looking for information about a community and now we have one that is more like what they want to see and what they want to use.

We were a sponsor and provided mentoring services to USIs second Technology Commercialization Academy and this academy is actually spinning off some ideas on Crane patents and two of those ideas have been picked up by regional innovators and they're actually caring them forward with product development from the student's ideas.

So what we are seeing is that we are beginning to impact and we're beginning to develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem and I can give you one example. I've had a couple of entrepreneurs come in, they have an idea for a cloud-based software product but they had some technical questions so through the I-69 task force that we chair I was able to reach out through the region to people who were other founders of software based companies. They offered their help to support these entrepreneurs and through that network, we ended up being connected with a venture capital firm in another state who actually has a business for sale that could be relocated to Indiana so we connected them with a local business that is in the same industry for maybe a possible acquisition. So this is the type of stuff that's happening with these entrepreneurial networks and I think it's something that we just need to continue to work on and strengthen.

We currently are working with three inventors on products that they hope to commercialize. We developed a cold-call marketing package for the small arms industry hoping to build on the Crane relationship. We are finalizing a second package for optics and photonics companies and we are doing research to identify some specific companies for a third cold-call package because what's happened is we are not getting as many leads through the traditional sources so we are trying to come up with other things in creative ways to develop our own leads and to be able to go directly to companies.

We, again, produce the Fourth of July fireworks and we help the downtown Farmer's Market. We also have consulted with and provided guidance to downtown merchants, Franklin Street merchants and we've worked on a possible revitalization project for a third commercial corridor.

In summary, we continue to see job growth from existing businesses. We see a lot of activity with our innovators and entrepreneurial activities even through the economy is still slow and while we are not seeing as many leads come in through the traditional sources we are doing some things to try and drive that and increase it.

That's a very quick overview. I want to thank you for your time in listening. I don't know if you have questions or if want to wait for the annual report in January.

President Robinson: *(Off Mic)* Any questions from any Councilmembers?

Councilman Adams: Do you have any plans to develop medical research facilities?

GAGE President Dewey: We've been looking into that and we've been doing some research. We have provided some materials for the IU Medical School Attraction Package; looking at what other things we need to do to attract that as well. We still have a lot more work to do but we've just started on some of that.

Councilman Adams: Thank you.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Is our con...your contract is with the City as well as you have one with the County.

GAGE President Dewey: We have a contract with the Bond Bank of Evansville and then another one with the County Commissioners.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: But you do as well with the City, is that correct?

GAGE President Dewey: Well the City Bond Bank is the actual services contract signer.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Is that an annual contract?

GAGE President Dewey: It's an annual contract.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: How much was it for 2013?

GAGE President Dewey: It was, gosh, \$275,000 I think.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Do we have a growth rate for that contract? I mean it's 275 for 13 and what was it for 12?

GAGE President Dewey: It's been the same since 2007. It has not increased.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Okay, 275. Can you give me just...I didn't hear anything that ever came of it on Project Water.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: That was one of them that cancelled. We got to the end and they cancelled the project.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Meaning that...

GAGE President Dewey: They are not going forward with the project itself. Not that we lost it to another community.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Well but they already are here.

GAGE President Dewey: It's the expansion piece of that project they're not going to continue with.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: All right, but they're not at least leaving though in terms of what's already here.

GAGE President Dewey: No, no. They are not leaving the work that they do have here now.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Okay. Do you have openings in Innovation Pointe?

GAGE President Dewey: We've got, I think, three small offices right now.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Okay. Have you...I had met with Ed Hafer a couple of months ago about a capital fund that would include in the properties that it cared for Innovation Pointe.

GAGE President Dewey: That's right.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: So you are aware of that?

GAGE President Dewey: Yes. Right now, Innovation Pointe, up to this point, up until really about the end of this year, any capital, repairs, or maintenance, or things came out of the Certified Technology (*Inaudible*)...

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: And that money is gone.

GAGE President Dewey: Right. And there was also about \$70,000 a year in operating expenses that came out of that.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: And that's gone as well.

GAGE President Dewey: So that has been a hit to the Growth Alliance budget this year, that expense, and also we've been fortunate that we haven't had any major renovation...repairs needed to that building but the chillers are getting...they're on their last legs I think.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Well right, and I think we had talked about...I mean there's tuck-pointing and some different things that...

GAGE President Dewey: Tuck-pointing has been recommended.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:...needs to be done with the brick. But that...if that proposal actually gets in front of us and we do a capital fund that would take at least the repairs...

GAGE President Dewey: At least the capital repairs, right.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:...related to Innovation Pointe would come out of your budget and you wouldn't have to deal with that.

GAGE President Dewey: And that would be great. That would help because right now we don't have a budget for any capital projects like that so if something happens (*Inaudible*)...

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Right, and you've absorbed, you've have no choice...

GAGE President Dewey: I've absorbed the expenses.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:... but to absorb the operating.

GAGE President Dewey: The operating expenses we've absorbed.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: But at least if we can move forward with the ERCs plan it would take out, okay, at least the maintenance related there, okay. And then do you have a member of...is there a member of City Council that sits on the board for GAGE?

GAGE President Dewey: Councilman Friend.

Councilman Friend: I'm the man.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: I knew that...well I knew there was a problem. I'm sorry. Okay, thank you very much.

GAGE President Dewey: Okay.

Councilman Friend: Debbie, can I ask you something, Debbie? Oh, excuse me. First of all, do we have...we're tied into venture capitalist don't we, if we have anybody, companies that want to try to...

GAGE President Dewey: It's...I think it's a difficult position because we can't be seen as kind of saying, "Hey, we recommend you invest in this", but we do know of some local angel investors and we will sometimes ask them to talk to people. We also have referred people to like a Louisville venture club, which would allow them to have the investment still be here. We tie in with Elevate Ventures. There are also a couple web bases venture capital groups that we have somebody who can get us access to so when we get to somebody that's looking at those things, we try to point them in all those directions.

Councilman Friend: So we do have access to some hedge funds or whatever?

GAGE President Dewey: I don't know that we have access to them. What I can do is, because we can't, again, make that recommendation, but what I try to do is work with the entrepreneur and get their pitch ready, get their teaser ready, get their equity-ask and everything, and then try to point them to places where they can go before venture capital funds.

Councilman Friend: There's a thing that we...when we get denied, we're off the short-list. What are some of the things you think we can improve on? Do you have anything (*Inaudible*)?

GAGE President Dewey: Well I think sometimes we, within, especially within the City of Evansville, we don't have a lot of product in terms of new space, new greenspace to grow and we have a lot of older buildings that are empty or they don't meet today's new manufacturing so lots of times we don't make that first cut because we don't have the product. But if we have the product we do have, you know good educational, good workforce reputation. Sometimes other, if it's in another state, and sometimes other communities in Indiana, I mean they're flat out writing checks. You know, deal-closing funds they're called. So very often, that can be a factor too.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Would we benefit from razing some commercial because I've...you know, we've got a lot of vacant commercial but I noticed, and it was a rezoning that happened in the Second Ward, that they couldn't sell the property...they couldn't sell the property with the housing on it but when invested in razing it and grading the lot, they were able to do...to get rid of it. And when we look at a facility like Hahn, which they still own, but I mean it...when you get that kind of square footage covering a city block that nobody's going to buy and repurpose, would we benefit from investing in razing some of these commercial structures and providing that greenspace that's right...or that sort of clean lot?

GAGE President Dewey: Right. And I mean I'd have to evaluate each building separately but in general...

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Sort of conceptually the idea though of taking...

GAGE President Dewey: Conceptually, the idea, yes, especially if you can create, even if it's Brownfield or greenspace, and get it shovel-ready, certified, and maybe even do some of the environmental checks and everything to show that this is ready to start constructing a new building because we see time and time again that with some of the old structures, it costs more to renovate them for today's needs than it does just to start from, you know, ground zero and build the whole thing new. That's very often the case.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Plus I think it's so much easier to, you know, to look at a lot and sort of picture what could be there when it's empty as opposed to, "Oh, we'd have to tear this down". And then...

GAGE President Dewey: That's a lot of costs to tear it down and dispose of it.

President Robinson: Any other questions? Anyone in the audience?

Thank you Debbie. Good work

GAGE President Dewey: Thank you.

President Robinson: Kenny Overton, Parks Department.

Parks Commissioner Overton: Good evening. My name is Kenny Overton, I'm one of the Parks Board Commissioners, and I'm going to try to get this flash drive going. I've got two broken arms.

Councilman Weaver: You okay?

Parks Commissioner Overton: (*Inaudible*) Thanks though. All right. Let's restart this later. We'll go ahead and start (*Inaudible*).

About eight weeks ago, I was up on a six-foot stepladder, the ladder broke, and I hit the ground and broke both my arms, which generated a lot of phone calls and a lot of promises from people that said, "If you need anything let me know. I'll come pick you up to do what you got to do". One of those phone calls came from Dan Shaw, our supervisor of the park maintenance. A couple of weeks before that, October 22, there was some statements made at a couple of City Council meetings about the condition of our parks and the facilities and how awful and they were an embarrassment. So I told Dan, I said, "Yeah, do me a favor. Come pick me up and let's go around and visit the parks and I want to take a picture of all of 'em just to see if I can find the crappy part". And this is what I found.

We started out the day on November 5; we started out at Akin Park. What I have here are just a few pictures of the parks that we visited that day. In case you don't know where Akin Park is, it's at Parkside and Taylor and everyday day between 9:00 and 10:00 there is lady that walks a great big dog there. If you stick around long enough you can see it. We didn't stay around but there is another picture of the park. Look at that. It's well groomed. It doesn't look like it's in bad shape. It's got some old picnic tables but...

This is Tepe Park. This is a well-maintained park for the neighborhood that it's in. We've had a lot of graffiti, which has been taken care of. One thing we'd like to do with this park is the alley, and you'll see later on in a couple of slides from...or photographs from now, an idea that we would like to do with the alley. Once again, you'll see that the park doesn't look like it's in bad shape.

Here's Caldwell Park. The red structure, the shelter in the very back, that's brand new. We just got through building that.

Of course there's Haynie's Corner. It's shut down for the winter.

This is Goosetown Park. That's the Goosetown Gazebo.

This is the alley that I was referring to that we would like to do something, hopefully in the future, with the alleys around Tepe Park. The trash trucks go up and down this alley every week. It's very sturdy and that is a...it's called a permeable surface so the water doesn't stand. It goes down through the center there. There's playground equipment. I don't see any...it looks like it's in pretty good shape.

Line Street Park, we had some issues with graffiti in the past so what we've done is we've told the community to take ownership. You see that they've painted up the four posts on the little shelter there.

The Bellemeade Park, this is another park that's in really pretty good shape and it's pretty clean.

Bayard Park, this is a huge park that has a lot of trees and a lot of open space to take your pets and have a family picnic. Great playground equipment here; well maintained.

Stevenson Park, one thing that I don't know if you can see it; I'll try to zoom in but the Steven...I can't do it. The Stevenson Park, it is a partnership park with the neighborhood association, which is something that we really would like to encourage all the City to get involved with, especially if their neighborhood associations, regardless of what ward you're in or...

Sunset Park; this park we had issues in the past with the playground area. It was sand, now its mulch. It's in pretty good shape, well maintained. We had some graffiti with the sign down closer to the playground equipment. There's the trailhead at the Sunset Park. Notice the trashcan receptacles, and there are trashcan receptacles at all of these parks and they're well maintained and they're emptied on a regular basis. We have had some issues with some of the facilities but those issues get addressed the very next day. Here's another picture of some of the raised beds. We had an issue one time with a couple of homeless people taking advantage of the playground facility. Officer Mangold would wake up to a surprise daily at this park. That issue has been resolved. Notice the trashcan receptacles and it's a well-maintained, well-groomed park.

I don't how many people know that we maintain the LST building also.

Lamasco Park, this is a really nice park. We've got a really nice trailhead here. The skate park, you think that looks bad but it doesn't. That's the skate park. We can paint that thing today; this weekend they'll take ownership of it and they put their skateboard, their skate graffiti on it. It's really nothing to get excited about or it's out of hand. It's something that their...and we had a groundbreaking for the Greenway there a couple of years back. I talked to some of the guys that were at the...some of the young kids that were at the skate park and they take ownership on this. If somebody trashes their park they tell them, you know, "This is our park. Leave it alone. Pick up your trash; take it over to the trashcans". Which they're all over the place.

(Inaudible) another picture and I took all these with my phone with a couple of broken arms.

Now Diamond Valley Park. This one I was really impressed with. I had no idea that there was this...there was the amount of land that is there at this place and the erosion control that has been addressed. Surrounding the lake there are wire baskets that keep the lake from eroding and keep the ducks and people from the bank washing and all that stuff. We have invested a lot of money into Diamond Valley Park.

Sheridan Park, the playground equipment here came from Jacobsville, correct? Jacobsville Park. There were some issues with lead in the soil. One thing unique about Sheridan Park, I don't know if everybody knows where it's at but it's over on the north side of Evansville, one thing about the creek, there's a creek that runs right down through the middle of it. It is on the DNR list of one of the cleanest natural filtering creeks in the state so little known trivia there.

Igleheart Park, it's kind of out of focus but this is the playground equipment at Igleheart Park. It's sand. Every one of those posts has a line on it showing the level of sand, what it's supposed to be and not any lower than that. You won't see the lines if you visit there. If you do, let us know. We'll make sure that the sand is at the level where it's supposed to be. Now we're in the process, hopefully in 2014, of getting rid of the sand and putting in the mulch.

There's another one...picture...and one thing that I did find, and a lot of people describe Lloyd as this litter box and it was anything other than that and when I walked into the building, yeah, it

smelled like a pool. The lobby, it wasn't very eye pleasing. We just moved a lot of money in the Parks Board and the Park Commissioners; we moved some money over to get the lobby facility done, the bathrooms. I'm not for sure if it was both of the locker rooms but we're getting ready to do some really good remodeling and renovation, long time needed. But these people are doing...our people are doing a great job at that pool with the funds that they get and the flack that they catch.

Now Moutoux Park, everybody knows where Moutoux Park's at. If you pull into the park you'll see a bunch of pipes sticking out of the ground. That's the land fill, letting out the, I think it's methane gas. But here's another park that's well groomed and well maintained. This one, the soccer people have taken some ownership in this park. We encourage that. They raised the level of the soccer field. We have parking spaces that are well marked and well indicated. That day there were several police officers there from all different departments around the state. I think I even saw a couple from Kentucky, two or three. They had their dogs out there and they like to train out on the westside of this park. This is the eastside.

Howell Mini-Park. The first time I saw this park it was in disarray. This was about six, seven years ago, I saw this park and it was, there was a lot of weeds, a lot of growth, a lot of maintenance that needed to be done but it's done and this park is out by the train depot, out on the southwest side of Evansville. Westside Nut Club has taken partnership and ownership in this and the fence looks great. It's a nice place for kids to grow and hangout.

Here's the Westside Nut Club over off of Franklin, between Franklin and the Lloyd Expressway. These basketball goals are not commercial grade basketball goals. They're kind of in bad shape because they're not built for the abuse that commercial play gets. Matter of fact, and there's some more of the playground again, you'll notice that it's well groomed and manicured. There are leaves falling because it's that time of the year.

A couple of other pictures. Now this park, the basketball goals here, we fixed one of these basketball goals with a backboard from the Westside Nut Club Park. It was broken. They're the same ones so the kids have a good basketball court here. Notice it doesn't look like it's in bad shape.

Casselberry Park, there's not a whole lot here. A place to put up the tent and have a picnic. Bring your barbeque. You'll notice there's a sign that says, "No Baseball Games Allowed". I guess that might have been an issue at one time; I'm really not for sure. But there are some horseshoe pits. Like I say, it's just a nice place to hang out on Sunday afternoon or a weekend with your family or just get out of the house.

Olmstead Park, it's just a small park out by the trailhead on the north end of town. There's trash receptacles here. It's well groomed, well-manicured.

This one surprised me, this is Homestead Park. How many people know where Homestead Park is at? I had no idea it existed and Dan told me, said, "I'm going to take you where you don't know there's a park". It's out...if you were standing on Highway 41 looking at the Vanderburgh County Jail, directly behind it is Homestead Park, back in that neighborhood. We've got some small playground equipment. It's just a nice big area for kids to run and play and have a get-together, a picnic. Trash receptacles, there's one right over there against the road. They're conveniently placed so we don't have...

Wesselman Park, I think this is the one that some people got some issues with. It needs...it needs a paint job. It needs work. The kids take their chalk and they draw on that, I think it says "Bakery" on it. If I could zoom in I'd show you. You notice that there's some grass growing up on the pads underneath the swing set. I can't tell you how many days and how much fun I had spending it with my daughter at this park. This park, I wouldn't be a bit embarrassed to take my kids to, my grandkids, my neighbor's kid, my cousins, invite 'em over to it. There are some places that...you see there's a missing part here. You know, even when the kids go here they really don't mind that.

This is a handicapped accessible park. It's designed specifically for that. The gate has a lock on it. I'm sorry, a latch on it to keep the kids leaving it when the parents have their heads turned which is a lot of the problem with some of the parks.

This park, that's about all you get. You got a big area, some swings, some smaller playground equipment. This is Lorraine Park. This park we've got some pretty good plans for in the future. I hope it all turns out really good. This park is a good one for some new playground equipment. I'll just leave it at that.

Vann and Pollack Park, there's some ownership or partnering in this park with the ball fields. They've done a lot of work to the dugouts and to the concession stand areas. One thing I want to point out: the signs. You've noticed all the signs but they all have the four-post and the sign that goes in between it. We found that it's a whole lot easier to maintain those signs the way they're designed. That way the board goes between the post instead of just attaching to one side, or in the middle and it falling apart. So you'll notice that 90% or better of the signs at all of our parks are secured this way.

Anthony Oates Park, this place is huge. I had no idea of the magnitude of Anthony Oates Park. There's so much going on here. It's got the pool, the playground equipment. This playground equipment costs less than \$50,000 for both pieces.

The one thing that we use...in the Parks Department we have what's called a savings account, what I refer to as a savings account, a lot of families refer to it. It's been called a few other things, you know, a Rainy Day fund, but we have that money in that account to fix our facilities. The very day before these pictures were taking place, at the Shirley James Memorial, somebody took a stick or a rod or something, and broke out all the lenses of all the lights around it. Why? We don't know. It was projected to be less than \$500.00 and it ended up costing I think just a little bit over that. I'm not really sure of the exact figure. But the kids, they...the vandalism that happened to this park was they pushed a trashcan over next to the climbing wall, set the trashcan on fire and melted the climbing wall. We had a brand new climbing that day in the Parks maintenance facility waiting for it to be replaced. But that's...out of that savings account or that Rainy Day fund, that's where we get the funds to make repairs to things....the vandalism at Shirley James and the vandalism for the climbing wall so we really do need all the funding that we can get for those things.

Here's another picture of the big grassy knoll. This park is a great place to fly a kite, Price Park. It's got a huge wide-open area. The bathroom facilities are well maintained. You'll see that the trashcan receptacles are all over the place at Price Park.

Angel Mounds Boat Ramp, this place used to be...this used to be well maintained and well mowed but now it's grown up for a wildlife habitat area. The local football team used to practice in that field.

This is Stockwell Park, the soccer fields. I think there's some ownership here in the playground equipment with the Stockwell Neighborhood Association.

This is a jewel. I had no idea about the magnitude of Goebel Soccer Complex. This place is immaculate and I'm sorry to say this was the first day that I'd been in there. I've driven by it a lot and I always wondered what it looked like on the inside. I never played soccer; never had any need to go. But this place is a top-notch facility. Everywhere you look, there's no trash, it's well groomed, well maintained. This was just one of the many parks that are in our city. We had a huge event, homeschool event, the weekend before...the weekend after these pictures were taken.

Central Bark, we saw a couple of wild...little critters I guess for lack of a better term, when we were up at Central Bark. Not domesticated dogs but actual...whatever...a raccoon and I think there were a couple of squirrels but it was kind of odd.

Kleymeyer Park, this is where all of our maintenance guys take the brush and the stumps and the tree limbs and the things that we just can't haul off to the dump, take it back there to the backside of the woods, backside of the ball field.

Golfmoor Park, now this is our start, really our start of the day on November 19th. We've had a lot of vandalism and graffiti issues here but this park...those cattails are supposed to be like that. That's a ditch. The parking lot is well groomed and well maintained, designated parking. There's some gravel areas that we have some puddles but we have a partnership also with the City of Evansville to help us maintain this road and this facility. One thing that you can't see very good in the pictures is that there is...our maintenance crew has gone out to the tennis courts and cut back the wildlife...or not the wildlife the trees and the brush away from the fence. We had some concerns from our citizens that it was going to hurt our fences and our tennis courts. This goes up to the handball courts. There's another picture of that. These pictures show another...where's that...there we go! These tennis courts are fabulous and I didn't know they existed. I knew the park was there but these are called the Lakeview Tennis Courts and these are all part of Golfmoor. It's up on Lakeview Boulevard.

Jacobsville Park. A local church has taken ownership in this. They planted the bushes and they've done a lot of landscaping. You'll notice there is no playground equipment. I explained earlier that was taken out of that park due to some lead in the soil issues. But Jacobsville Park, we've had some special interest from a local church and they've done an outstanding job.

What I was able to share with you tonight was my two days visiting with Dan Shaw, going around looking for the park that nobody could stand to look at; that was making our city look bad and I knew it didn't exist and I know it doesn't exist. Yeah there are some pieces of playground equipment that you might need to fix the tic-tac sign, or we might need to paint, or the chain might be raveled but let us know about these things and we'll address it. We have an ongoing challenge inside the department, the maintenance department, to make sure that our facilities look good and they don't look like crap. If you find that crappy park...I've been saying that word too much...call me. My name is Kenny Overton and I'll be happy to give you my telephone

number, my address, whatever it takes. We'll visit that park, we'll get ahold of Dan if we need Dan out there but we'll get these issues addressed.

I thank you for your time and I hope everybody has a merry Christmas. I'll answer any questions that I may be able to answer but I'm not for sure of what they might be.

President Robinson: *(Off Mic)* Are there any question of Kenny?

Councilman Friend: What's your telephone number?

Parks Commissioner Overton: 812-305-3721. How's that?

Councilman Friend: That's great.

President Robinson: *(Off Mic)* Any questions from anyone in the audience? Okay, thank you.

Councilman Friend: Thanks.

President Robinson: *(Off Mic)* City Council Boards and Commission Appointments. I think you have them all in front of you. Has everyone had the chance to look them over? We'll call them out. Is there anyone that would like to serve on the Commission on Homelessness of Vanderburgh County? That's the only one we don't have.

Unidentified Speaker: *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

President Robinson: *(Off Mic)* Yes it is *(Inaudible)*. Anyone? Councilman Weaver? Okay, thank you.

In case some of these people in television land wants to know who's is on these boards and commissions I'm going to go ahead and call 'em out so be patient with me.

CITY COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

H. Dan Adams (Term of Office) 1/1/14 - 12/31/15

BOARD OF EXAMINERS HVAC, STEAMFITTERS AND REFRIGERATIONINSTALLERS

Everett Baylor (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

CENTRAL DISPATCH BOARD

Jonathan Weaver (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS OF VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Jonathan Weaver (Term of Office) 1/1/14 - 12/31/15

EMERGENCY MEDICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
H. Dan Adams (Term of Office) 1/1/14 - 12/31/15

EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

Jack Corn (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014
Stephanie Brinkerhoff- Riley (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

EVANSVILLE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
John Friend (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

EVANSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ERC)
Pat Lowery (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014
Stan Wheeler (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

MESKER PARK ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
Dan McGinn (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

PIGEON CREEK GREENWAY BOARD
Jonathan Weaver (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

SOLID WASTE BOARD
Missy Mosby (Term of Office) 1/1/14 - 12/31/15

VANDERBURGH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING COMMITTEE
H. Dan Adams (Term of Office) 1/1/14 - 12/31/15

WNIN BOARD
Jonathan Weaver (1 year) 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

President Robinson: I need a motion to accept the City Council Appointments.

Councilwoman Mosby moved and Councilman O'Daniel seconded the motion to accept the City Council Appointments for 2014. Voice vote. So ordered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A.S.D. COMMITTEE:
Re: Ordinance G-2014-1
January 13, 2013
Time: 5:25 p.m.
Notify: John Noback

CHAIRMAN BRINKERHOFF-RILEY
Certification of Convenience and Necessity
for Taxicabs (Mighty Cab)

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Has that already been filed?

City Clerk Windhorst: It has been filed, yes.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Do we have to specifically carry it over for it to...

President Robinson: Has it been filed.

City Clerk Windhorst: It has been filed, yes.

President Robinson: Yeah.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: I don't know how to do that but we will formally carry that over. I don't think we have to do it by motion or anything. We just have to acknowledge...

President Robinson: You'll need a motion to...

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: All right well then I will entertain a motion to carry this over.

President Robinson: What happened that they didn't do this until the end of the...they all have to be done by the end of the year.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Yeah, I don't...

Councilman O'Daniel: It must be filed then. It doesn't have to be done.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Nobody contacted me.

President Robinson: Well they have to be done they can't operate.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Nobody contacted me; I have no idea. I just...I know the three that came through...

President Robinson: They can't operate the first of the year then. They have to...yeah.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: I haven't had any contact with Mr. Noback. I had contact with the three that came here.

President Robinson: I don't know if the Controller's Office or someone in your office will get in touch with them because they have to...we have to pass it by the end of the year or they can't operate January 1st.

Councilman Adams: *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*...it will be the 6th.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: All right then, we won't. Then there's no point in carrying it over beyond the 31st.

City Clerk Windhorst: They just filed...they want to file. They just filed late so...

President Robinson: Yeah but they have to...they have...it has to be passed by the end of the year for them to operate in the New Year.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: And so...

President Robinson: Their license expires with the Controller's Office December 31.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: And it will have to. It'll just have to. I mean...

Councilman Adams: *(Off Mic)* We can see them on January 6.

President Robinson: We can see them on the 6th but they can't operate from the 1st to the 6th. I think someone needs to notify. You need to note...someone needs to notify them and let them know.

Councilman Adams: *(Off Mic)* Or we could have a special meeting next Monday.

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: Yeah, so I guess we won't make any type of motion to carry it over. *(Inaudible)* see what happens.

Unidentified Speaker: *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)* 2014 though so I don't know if that's...

Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley: That's interesting. It's already filed with a 14 number.

President Robinson: Yeah, so we don't have to carry it over. It's already filed for 2014. Yeah, it's already filed.

Councilman Adams: *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)* see this individual on 6th or 8th.

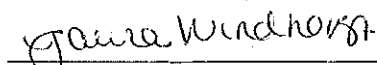
ADJOURNMENT

President Robinson: Okay, can I get a motion for adjournment.

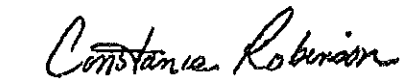
Councilman Friend moved and Councilman Weaver seconded the motion to adjourn. Voice vote. So. Ordered.

Happy Holidays. Merry Christmas.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Laura Windhorst, City Clerk



Constance Robinson, President